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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 14, Iss. 6)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments

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JUSTICE

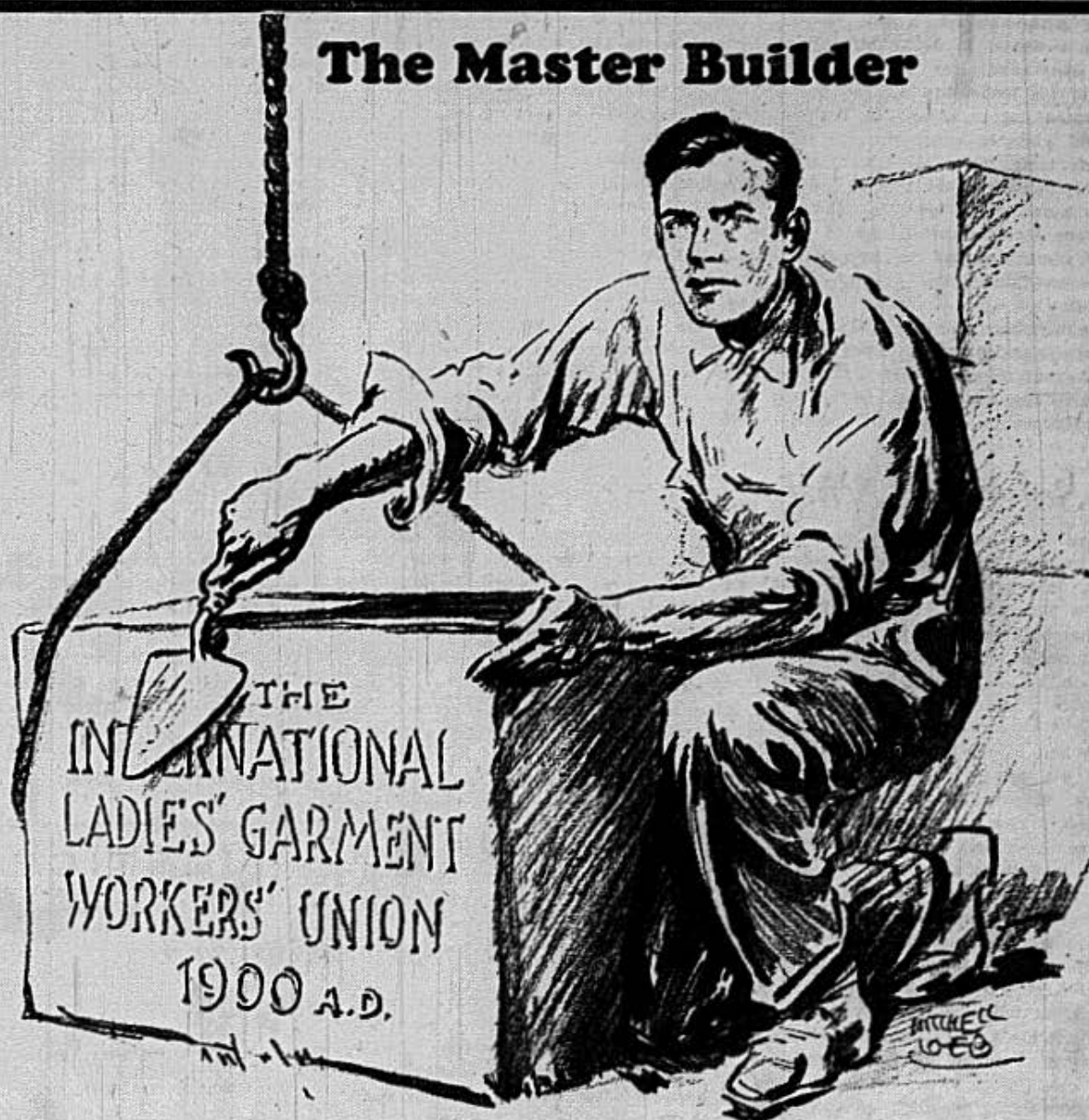
Official Organ of The International
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Vol. XVI. No. 6

Jersey City, N. J., July, 1932

Price 10 Cents

The Master Builder



BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER

Late President, I. L. G. W. U.

Born—December 25, 1876

Died—June 6, 1932.

At the Bier of Benjamin Schlesinger

By David Dubinsky:

With grieving hearts and bowed heads we stand at the bier of our departed leader. The final pages of Benjamin Schlesinger's book of life are being closed today.

I first came in close contact with Brother Schlesinger in 1922, when I was elected a member of the General Executive Board. I only had the opportunity to work with him for a few months when he resigned in 1923. Already at that time my admiration for the sterling quality of his leadership was so great, that I voted not to accept his resignation. And when he came back to us a few years later, when our organization was sorely in need of the type of leadership he alone could give us and he started our Union on the road to new life, my admiration for his indomitable will, resourcefulness and energy knew no bounds.

Benjamin Schlesinger was a fanatic in his loyalty and devotion to our movement. As the head of our Union he would have the whole world serve our cause. He would enlist and harness

every moral and material force that could only help the cause of our organization. He accepted no refusal and he set to all of us an example of a restless and courageous leadership.

But Benjamin Schlesinger was to the world at large even more than that. He typified the protest of the needle workers against the intolerable conditions that prevailed in our industry and which overburdened the lives of our workers years ago. He awakened the interest and the conscience of the outside world to the woes of the garment worker. He dramatized, by his personality, the cry of our workers for more light, for a greater measure of happiness and for a place in the sun.

Benjamin Schlesinger was a constant inspiration to our cause while he was well and could devote himself entirely to his great work. But even when he became sick in the last few years, his very name associated with our Union has become a symbol of strength and hope to our men and women and carried a far-reaching influence throughout

our industry and in the labor movement.

And when, at the last convention, he refused to run for reelection, we, knowing his great value to our movement, were willing to do everything in the world to make it possible for him to regain his health as long as he could be associated with us. To our great misfortune, however, fate has unexpectedly struck at him and has taken him away from our midst at the moment when we need him most. I have no words of consolation to offer to our own workers and least of all to his family—his wife and children—whose loss has been the greatest and the heaviest. If there is anything that can lighten our bereavement at this moment, it perhaps lies in the thought that Benjamin Schlesinger has lived a rich and a full life. He has lived a life dedicated fully, from his early youth, to the cause of his fellow men. And he died the death he always wished to die—as captain at the helm of our ship, at his post as President of our International Union.

By Salvatore Ninfo:

We are here today to pay our last tribute to our leader—to the President of our International Union—Brother Benjamin Schlesinger. Of the fifty-six years that he lived he gave forty years to organized labor—all his intelligence, all his energy and, finally, his very life.

Benjamin Schlesinger was a defender of his fellow-workers all his life. As President of our International Union he led his army in forty industrial struggles, in every garment center of the United States and Canada, and, with only rare exceptions or temporary failures, he won them all.

Under his leadership, the ladies' garment workers, who, twenty-five years ago were working and living as serfs, had been raised to the level of a decent human living. The workers of the women's garment industry will never forget all the sacrifices Benjamin Schlesinger had undergone during his active leadership of our Union.

The unswerving idealism with which he carried out our organization campaigns was invariably rewarded by the enthusiastic response from the masses of our workers. The driving energy with which he carried out all his programs and plans, his honesty unquestioned even by those who were not his friends,

made him universally respected and esteemed. These outstanding mental gifts of our departed leader will be long remembered, not only by his immediate associates, but also by those who knew him in other walks of life.

I still remember how, in a weakened voice, he declared at our last convention, about three or four weeks ago, after his reelection as President of our International against his will became certain: "I have devoted my entire life to the International, so you can understand why this Union is so dear to me. I am broken down in health, and that is the reason why I made up my mind not to accept. But against my desire you have decided upon a certain action, and I stand by it."

Yes, as a loyal soldier of the labor movement, he again accepted and stood at his post. As Mr. Alger has said in his eulogy, "Benjamin Schlesinger died in harness after having accepted once more the call of duty of the great Union he helped to organize."

My brothers and friends, the death of our great chief is the greatest loss that our Union has ever sustained. Our only consolation is that those who are left behind him to guide the destinies of

this International, know that though our leader is not with us any longer in the flesh, he will always remain with us in spirit to help us to continue the unfinished program left at his departure.

President Schlesinger, we give you our last salute, and we shall always remember you and honor you as a brother fallen at the post of duty, as the unforgettable friend, adviser and exemplary leader of our Union.

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and General Secretary-Treasurer
MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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President Dubinsky's Speech of Acceptance

I need not tell you that I consider my election to the presidency of our International Union the greatest reward that could fall to any member of our organization, a great honor and an expression of confidence on the part of the entire General Executive Board, and, through you, the confidence of the membership of our International.

To be very frank with you, I was very hesitant to accept this very important post, not because it is not an honorable position, not because I wanted to shirk responsibility, but because I had known the magnitude of the task which would confront me as president. I knew that my predecessors—Schlesinger and Sigman—both had long and creditable records of achievement and service to this Union before they became president. They were outstanding figures in the Labor movement, and I knew, at the same time, the troubles and tribulations they had to endure. You will understand, therefore, why I hesitated to accept.

Let me tell you further that I have no special program to offer to you. I feel that our program is the program of the welfare of our Union, the program of its preservation and of its continued progress and advancement. It is this program that my predecessor stood for and it is the program of the labor movement with which we are affiliated and whose cause we are championing. I will try to follow it up within my powers. If changes of tactics will be necessary,

I hope that we will all be big enough to meet such changes squarely. As a fighting, living organization our policies and our tactics of necessity must be flexible to meet the situations which arise from time to time.

With your cooperation I shall try to maintain the relations of genuine friendship and cooperation which we have had with

the general Labor movement. We should try to enlist into the service of our Union all elements of the progressive and radical Labor movement if necessary.

And in conclusion let me extend to you my sincerest appreciation and respect. The splendid fraternal manner in which you handled the matter before you today has given us a chance to come to our members and to the world with a clear-cut declaration that there is unity within our ranks and that we may work harmoniously together from now on. This will enable us to achieve the tasks we set before ourselves. I am very hopeful that with your cooperation we may all—rank and file workers and officers—be able to work for the betterment of the conditions of our members and the strengthening of our Union, the organization to which we have dedicated our time, our energy, our convenience and most of our life.



DAVID DUBINSKY
Elected President I. L. G. W. U.
June 15, 1932

Wm. Green To Dubinsky

I extend to you congratulations upon your appointment to serve as President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Your unanimous selection represents the high regard in which you are held and reflects the degree of confidence placed in you by your fellow officers and the rank and file of your International Union. I share with your numerous friends their feeling of deep satisfaction and genu-

ine pleasure over the great honor which has been conferred upon you. We are certain you will prove to be a worthy successor of those who have held the office to which you have been promoted. Please rely upon the full support and cooperation of myself and of the American Federation of Labor.

WILLIAM GREEN, President A. F. of L.

A Short Biographical Note of President Dubinsky

David Dubinsky was born 40 years ago in Brest-Litovsk, but his family moved to Lodz, Poland, when he was still a small child.

At the age of 14, after an apprenticeship of three years, he became master baker in his father's bakery, and soon became interested in the local labor movement, a revolutionary movement in those days for the simple reason that unions were forbidden then in Russian Poland and the work had to be carried on through underground channels.

Within a couple of years, young Dubinsky became an officer in the local bakery workers' union and went through in short order the baptismal fire of two general strikes which included his father's bakery, too. For this he was arrested, together with a group of his comrades, and, after having spent over a year in political prisons, was banished at the age of 17 to Siberia. After a short stay in Cheliabinsk, young Dubinsky made his way back to European Russia, and a year later journeyed to the United States, where he arrived in 1911.

Here, Dubinsky for a time tried to work in a knee-pants shop, but gave it up within a year and learned the cloak cutting trade, joining Local 10 in 1912. During his first few years in the United States, Dubinsky, though a member of his trade union, devoted most of his interests first to self-education and to the Socialist movement with which he affiliated himself. His instinct for practical work and the old interest in the daily struggles of his fellow workers soon, however, reasserted themselves and he threw himself with all his energy into the activities of Local 10, the cutters' organization. His abilities were quickly recognized, and Dubinsky began to rise rapidly in the cutters' union. In 1918 he became executive member of Local 10; in 1919 he was vice-chairman, in 1920, chairman, and in 1921 became manager-secretary of the cutters' body, taking the place, with one assistant, of the three department managers and the two secretaries who took care of its affairs before that.

From the management of Local 10 to the wider and more responsible activities of the International administration was but a short step for David Dubinsky. In 1922, he was elected vice-president and was successively reelected four times to the G. E. B., while continuing to manage Local 10, until, in December 1929, he became the unanimous choice of the Cleveland convention for the post of general secretary-treasurer of the International, which he accepted and relinquished his position in Local 10.

In the last administrative term of President Schlesinger, during the prolonged and frequent leaves of absence which the late president of the I.L.G.W.U. was forced to take on account of his ill-health, Brother Dubinsky was frequently requested by the G. E. B. to be acting president and he for months in succession worked incessantly both as president and secretary-treasurer acquitting himself of the dual task with high credit. In fact, even before he became General Secretary-Treasurer, in the Spring and

Summer of 1929, David Dubinsky was acting president during the great cloak campaign and strike in New York, carrying the brunt of the battle and later of the settlement negotiations with singular success.

With the sudden death of President Schlesinger, on June 6, Brother Dubinsky became the logical candidate for the presidential post, to which he was elected by the G. E. B. without a dissenting vote on June 15, 1932.

I.L.G.W.U. Protests Fur Excise Tax

In a telegram addressed to Congressman Fiorello H. LaGuardia on June 16, President David Dubinsky, strongly urged the amendment of the excise tax on furs recently passed by Congress, particularly insofar as it affects fur trimmings applied on women's coats produced largely in New York City, the chief cloak producing market in the country.

The amendment of this tax is urged by President Dubinsky in order "to avert the disaster which, in its present form, it now threatens to the coat industry." The telegram in full reads:

Hon. Congressman F. H. LaGuardia, Washington, D. C.

On behalf of fifty thousand organized workers in the coat and suit industry throughout this country, affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, we urge you to sponsor without delay such legislation as may be required to amend the excise tax on furs in order to avert the disaster which in its present form it now threatens, since it will apply to ninety per cent of the women's coats produced in factories employing our members. As it now stands it is not only a tax on furs, but in reality is a tax on clothing which is a prime necessity for the large masses of American consumers. It is a tax upon the labor performed by our workers and is a levy upon clothing and other garment components which cannot be construed as luxuries. The adoption of such a tax will greatly retard purchasing of women's coats and the unemployment crisis in our industry will be aggravated to an appalling degree. We turn to you as to one who has always had the interests of the wage earners at heart and know that you will oppose any

increase in the price of clothing to our workers and their families as well as to the families of millions of other workers in this period of stress. Anything you may do to safeguard the livelihood of the organized workers will, we assure you, be greatly appreciated by our organization and members.

DAVID DUBINSKY, President.

As we go to press, we are informed from the Washington headquarters of the American Federation of Labor that Bro. Edward F. McGrady, its legislative representative, has been assigned to work on the amendment of the fur tax law.

That the matter is not wholly hopeless is evident from the fact that there is a sharp division of opinion, according to further advices from Washington, as to whether or not the legislation covering the tax on furs as passed, should place a tax upon furs if the principal value of the garment is cloth. In other words, it is contended that the tax was never intended to be levied on a part of a garment that composed a lesser part of the value of the garment.

EMIL SCHLESINGER CONGRATULATES DUBINSKY

Have just learned here in Washington of your unanimous election as President of the International. Please accept my sincerest congratulations and best wishes. Am happy to know that the nobility of spirit and lofty idealism of him who passed away still guides the destiny of the Union through you. May you have good health and the harmonious cooperation of your associates in your work.

EMIL SCHLESINGER.

Editorial Notes

THE SUDDEN DEATH of Benjamin Schlesinger removes from the arena of our movement one of the last of the big leaders of the older, pioneer generation.

The Death of Benj. Schlesinger

We say sudden death, for despite the fact that President Schlesinger had been long ill, few had suspected that his end was so near. The matchless powers of resistance which enabled him to overcome two deadly major diseases within two years, had somehow inspired his multitude of associates and admirers with the belief that Schlesinger could conquer his last illness too. But the rarified atmosphere of the Colorado Rockies where he was sent in quest of a cure for a rapidly advancing pulmonary tuberculosis, proved too much of a handicap for his weakening heart.

The tragic demise of President Schlesinger has dealt a stunning blow to our Union. It is an irreparable loss that will be felt in the needle workers' trade union movement for many years to come. For Benjamin Schlesinger was not only a resourceful general and a born leader of men. He had become, after many years of association with our International Union, the very symbol of our movement, the incarnation—to our own workers and to the wider spheres of the community—of the driving force, the stability and the integrity of the I. L. G. W. U. In the finest sense of the term, he was the ambassador of our organization to the outside world, and our Union came to be admired and respected to a great extent because Benjamin Schlesinger was its spokesman, defender and fearless advocate.

It is too early to attempt an adequate appraisal of Benjamin Schlesinger's life or of his invaluable contribution to the trade union movement in the women's garment trades. Such a task plainly belongs to the larger scope of labor union history—it is an integral part of the wider account of the movement of the immigrant working masses in the United States to defend themselves against the reckless exploitation to which they had been subjected for more than a generation before the seed of organization had taken durable and firm root among them. In that elemental and glamorous movement Benjamin Schlesinger stands out as a peerless leader without fear and reproach, a name indelibly inscribed in every page and chapter of its history.

THE IMMENSE esteem and deep-seated regard which our own membership, the organized Labor movement of New York, and the progressive and radical elements in the community had for the late President Schlesinger, was never more vividly demonstrated than

A Great Funeral

at the public funeral arranged by the International for its departed chief.

It was one of the greatest tributes ever paid to a man who had cast his lot and dedicated his life to the cause of the workers. The tens of thousands who lined the streets reverently watching the cortege, the thousands who filed past the bier in the International Auditorium on the morning of the funeral, the miles of humanity which followed the hearse down to the Forward Hall, and the

great throng which proceeded in hundreds of automobiles to Mount Carmel Cemetery where, after a score of speakers had eulogized the memory of our great leader, his earthly remains were finally laid away to eternal rest—all were permeated with soul-stirring solemnity and genuine grief.

New York—and its working-class population especially—will long remember this marvelous demonstration of fealty to the glorious achievements of a leader who knew no retreat and who died in harness serving to the last hour the cause of his fellow men.

THE ELECTION of David Dubinsky to the office of president of the I. L. G. W. U., following the death of Benjamin Schlesinger, caused no surprise anywhere.

David Dubinsky— Our New President

It came as the most natural and generally expected thing. Not merely because for two and a half years he had filled, with outstanding credit, the post of general secretary-treasurer of the Union, the office next in importance and responsibility to the president's; not merely because during the past four years he had time and again ably discharged the duties of acting president at critical moments—but primarily, it would seem, because, by general consensus of opinion, David Dubinsky had emerged upon the horizon of our International as the logical successor to the place of chief executive of the I. L. G. W. U.

Whatever differences of opinion there may have existed, or still exist, within the organization regarding the fitness or preference of this or that person for the post of general secretary-treasurer, it appears that Dubinsky's fitness for the presidential office could not be challenged even by such as have differed with him in the past on some questions of union policy or tactics.

David Dubinsky, comparatively still a young man though a veteran in terms of trade union experience, is stepping forth toward the helm of our International at a difficult moment. The American trade union movement, at this day, is pressed hard by the fierce industrial depression and its consequences—drop in union membership, wage cuts, lowering of organizational morale and resistance to the aggression of the employers, and our International Union, naturally, is just as severely hit by the crisis as any other Union. In addition, the leadership of our Union, right now, is faced with a grave conflict in its major industry—the cloak industry of New York—and the brunt of the fight will, naturally, fall upon President Dubinsky.

The assumption by David Dubinsky of the presidency of the International, there is no disguising the fact, coincides with one of the most difficult periods in the history of our organization. Yet, trying as the situation is, there is abundant and general faith in our own ranks that the Union will not only weather the current storm but will come out on top under his leadership in every undertaking. And the wide acclaim with which his selection to the leadership of the I. L. G. W. U. was hailed furnishes the evidence that this confidence is shared in all the sectors of the American labor movement.

Rarely has a chief executive of a labor union combined such fine qualities of leadership—energy, resourcefulness, thoroughness and that rare gift of team work—as President Dubinsky possesses. Moreover, he is just the kind

of a man about whom one may say such nice things without stultifying oneself. And the whole membership of the International Union, fully agreed on this point, is wishing the new leader of their Organization—for his sake and for their own—unlimited success.

THE CLOAKMAKERS are ready. As these lines are being written, negotiations are still going on with the three employers' associations in the New York cloak industry. The employers are stubbornly refusing to back down on their demands for piece-work and for wage scale reductions, and the Union's negotiators stand out just as firmly for the retention of the week-work system, for limitation of contractors, and for an unemployment insurance fund to be maintained exclusively by the employers. The chances for a peaceful settlement, however, are getting slimmer, and the general strike is from day to day becoming more and more imminent.

The cloakmakers' organization, the Joint Board and all its affiliated locals, with the full backing of the International Union, is meanwhile feverishly completing its pre-strike mobilization campaign. The general strike machinery has already been appointed and is being put into fighting trim. On the order of the day for the first week in July is the great mass-meeting in the Lexington Avenue Armory, where the entire situation will be brought before the cloakmakers. The tens of thousands of workers in the cloak shops who are directly concerned with the demands and issues for which their representatives have been fighting for weeks at the conferences with the employers, will at that great meeting have the final say in the matter.

It is idle to speculate at this moment, in case the strike is unavoidable, how long it may last. No general strike can be measured out in advance—so many complex factors enter into it to determine its length and to influence its development. President Dubinsky, speaking at the last meeting of the New York Cloak Joint Board, expressed this idea very clearly and tersely, when he said:

"We shall do everything that is humanly possible to reach a peaceful settlement. We shall, however, be ready to strike most effectively if a strike is forced upon us. We are not interested in calling a strike for the sake of striking. Even if a strike is declared, we shall make every effort to bring about its speedy and victorious termination. What we are chiefly interested in is to get for the cloakmakers whatever we can in the way of improving their conditions and in securing for them the means of earning a decent livelihood, and it does not matter whether we may secure it through conferences or a strike of short duration. If, however, we shall be forced to engage in a prolonged strike, we are ready for that also, and we shall certainly leave nothing undone in the way of making such a strike most effective."

AT THIS MOMENT, when the cloakmakers' organization of New York is confronted with the prospect of a general strike growing out of the drastic demands being

A Timely Warning

forced upon it by the employers—when unity of purpose and solidarity of action is above all essential for presenting an undivided front to the bosses—a group of "reinitiated" Communists, admitted back into our Union on condition that they would behave in the future like loyal union members, has again embarked upon destructive activity among the

cloakmakers, calling unauthorized "conferences" to "take over the coming strike," spreading scurrilous circulars and in many other ways attempting to sow suspicion and mistrust among our workers towards the leadership of the Union.

Obviously, a pledge of loyalty means nothing to these fellows. Clear enough, they are reckoning that, somehow or other, their wild and disruptive antics will be overlooked and that they could proceed with immunity to do as they pleased. Let us hope, therefore, in view of this that the warning issued unanimously this week by the meeting of the New York Cloak Joint Board will have a sobering influence upon them. They certainly could not mistake the full sense and meaning of the following words in the Joint Board's resolution:

"We call upon the great membership of our locals to rally around their Union, give its leadership their fullest support and cooperation for the coming struggle and not to pay any attention to those who are scheming by tricks and manoeuvres to weaken the Union at this critical hour and thereby give aid and comfort to the enemy."

And furthermore:

"We call upon such elements to cease their dangerous work of slander and disruption. Should they continue in their treacherous activities, we shall regard their underhand machinations as treason to the interests of the cloakmakers and as acts of disloyalty to the Union and to the Labor movement in general."

THE LEADERS of the cloak employers' associations in New York who are clamoring for the adoption of piece-work as a production system in place of week-work

A Voice From Cleveland

have on several occasions cited the "success" of piece-work in the Cleveland cloak shops in support of their contentions. To be specific, it was "scientifically measured production standards," allegedly successful in Cleveland that the spokesmen for the New York employers would trot out from time to time to emphasize the benefits of piece-work.

It might be of special interest, in view of these allegations, to quote here a few paragraphs from a statement recently made public by Brother Charles Kreindler, secretary of our Cleveland Joint Board, which cast a wholly different light on this system of production standards in Cleveland. Says Vice-President Kreindler:

"The so-called measured production standards collapsed in the Cleveland cloak industry as far back as 1924 in nearly all the shops. They began to break down immediately after their introduction in 1920, until there is nothing left of them now."

"To prove how little this measured production contributes to either success or failure in the cloak industry, I can say that from 1920 to 1930 two-thirds of the Cleveland manufacturers, all of whom at one time or another employed this scientific measured production, had gone out of business."

These facts, for facts they are, hardly need any comment. If the experiment of "scientific production standards" has proved such a flat failure in Cleveland with its large shops and standardized styles, it is not difficult to visualize what a failure such a thinly disguised system of piece-work would have in New York with its multitude of small units and the rapid change of styles prevailing all through its cloak industry.

Run O' The Month

By MAX D. DANISH

SENATOR BORAH'S tempestuous declaration that he won't support Hoover on the present Republican platform may have caused a temporary flurry among his party's moguls but has given them no permanent headache. The Republican chiefs know their Senator from Idaho. They are aware that the "Lone Lion" is just naturally bound, ever so often, to break out into a roaring "revolt." This terrific noise, always front page copy, need not, however, be taken too gravely. After the temperamental outburst is given time to subside, the good old Republicanism of the Idaho statesman reasserts itself and he falls into step with the rest of the boys.

Borah's attack upon Hoover's platform and its makers is no menace to the Republicans. His diatribe, nevertheless, brings out into sharp relief the tragic-comedy of the Republican party torn apart by two diametrically opposing forces—for and against prohibition. But, of course, the Democrats are only slightly better off in this respect. Their souls, too, are rent between the desire to retain whatever "dry" territory there is still available and the counter allurements to garner in as many disgruntled Republican "wets" as might be attracted to straight repeal.

On the surface of things, prohibition may appear to be a plague and an abomination to the politicians of the two old parties. In point of fact, however, it is rather a blessing. They would much rather flounder in the prohibition morass than face concretely the terribly perplexing problems growing out of the economic crisis which continues to throttle the life of America today.

THE HONORABLE Mr. Harvey, borough president of Queens, came out the other day with a vicious attack on President Frederick B. Robinson of the College of the City of New York for permitting his institution to "breed radicals."

This Mr. Harvey, the only Republican in the New York city administration, has had nothing to say in late months about the sickening graft disclosures brought out in the current investigation of Tammany. But Mr. Harvey dislikes the City College, first, for the reason that it affords an education to so many poor Jewish and Italian lads—"furriners" to this British importation, anyhow!—and, secondly, because a great many of these boys are inclined towards Socialism and other forms of radicalism. A similar blast was issued a few days ago against President Glenn Frank of the University of Wisconsin for allowing his great school

"to become a hotbed of radicalism" by John C. Chapple, Republican candidate for U. S. Senate in that State.

The truth of the matter is that the undergraduate groups in many colleges are showing today a considerably greater interest in radicalism than ever before. The young men or women who are leaving the colleges now are facing rather meager prospects for making a living. The student youth of the land, with few exceptions, appear to be heading straight for the army of unemployed. Small wonder that the students are beginning to doubt in the justice of our social system and are beginning to listen eagerly to those who advocate radical changes. It is not our colleges that breed radicals but the capitalist system which has proved morally and economically bankrupt. And the students, quicker perhaps than any other group within our population, are beginning to perceive its utter bankruptcy.

THE BRUENING cabinet's fall and its replacement by an aggregation of Junkers and industrialists, is now being openly attributed to the determination of the former chancellor to break up into small parcels several of the largest estates of the East Prussian landlords and to distribute them among thousands of land-hungry farmers in order to check the drift of the unemployed into the cities. The Junkers, in retaliation, aided by the Hitlerites, are now planning to scrap some of the unemployment relief measures inaugurated by the former government and even to cut down the monthly allowance to the jobless.

Official figures place the number of unemployed in Germany close to six million, all whom receive from the State a monthly "dole" of thirteen dollars. This allowance, while apparently very modest, mounts up, nevertheless, to the huge sum of nearly a billion dollars a year. Let us now compare this jobless relief situation in poverty-stricken Germany with the unemployment tragedy in our own wealthy America.

No one can say definitely how many idle workers there are today in the United States. Washington obviously is not interested in exact figures on this subject. The estimates run all the way from eight million, a Labor Department appraisal, to twelve million as figured by quite dependable outside observers. But, accepting the government estimate of eight million, the criminal

disregard of the unemployed appears even more reprehensible. If poor Germany, with half the population of the United States, can help its six million jobless wage-earners, surely rich America should be able to care for its eight million.

Thirteen dollars a month, it is true, is a pittance. But it certainly is better than nothing, especially when one takes into account that the German wage average has always been far below the American. Germany gives of her very last to enable its industrial population to keep body and soul together, while proud America, under the hypocritical pretext of being opposed to a "dole" sends its jobless to soup houses and bread lines.

PRESIDENT HOOVER, just one year after he proposed the moratorium on reparation payments, has startled the world again by a plan for armament reductions of about 30 per cent of present costs, which, if adopted, would result in the saving of nearly fifteen billion dollars to all nations within the next ten years.

Hoover's arguments are sound and simple enough. The burden of armaments is making economic recovery impossible the world over. Even a substantial reduction of military costs would stimulate an economic revival. And while Hoover does not mention in his statement the question of war debts, it sounds directly enough as a warning to the countries of Europe that they must either reduce their military forces or pay back America their war obligations.

The chief flaw in Hoover's proposal, however, lies in its failure to offer France, whose military strength might be greatly weakened by its adoption, any "security" in the event of an attack. The hard-headed Frenchmen trust neither Mussolini, the German Hitlerites now nearly in the saddle, nor even Stalin. Japan's recent example of flagrant violation of the Kellogg Treaty and her invasion of China seems only to strengthen this viewpoint of the French realists.

Hoover's well-intentioned plan of armament reductions, as the Frenchmen view it, decidedly contradicts America's resolution to steer clear of any European commitments. And as long as America adheres to her policy of isolation, her best laid plans for armament reduction and world recovery will be treated in Europe with a lot of courtesy but with just as much suspicion.

DAVILA, dubbed by some people, prematurely, it would seem, the Kerensky

of Chile, is in power again, after having been ousted from power for a brief spell by the semi-Communist followers of Colonel Grove.

These latest revolutions in Chile, it is well to bear in mind, have not been carried out by an organized working class but by army and navy officers. Chile, to be sure, has had nearly a dozen revolutions in the past few years, but its civilian population had taken but an inconsequential part in them.

The new Davila junta, though it promises to build a "Socialist republic," will not introduce Socialism in Chile. The nationalization of some heavy industry in Chile, if that takes place, will, of course, be not Socialism. State ownership, or state capitalism, without genuine democracy is not Socialism because it does not vest the direction and control of the economic life in the masses of the people.

The working class of Chile, in its great majority, is ignorant and but weakly organized. The masses of its population live in appalling poverty. Chile, like

most other semi-industrialized South American countries, is in dire need of radical and far-reaching reforms. Davila, if one may correctly judge from a distance, means well. He would return to the Chilean people, as far as he can go at present, control over the natural resources of their land and the power to regulate their economic life.

But then again—the Chilean upheaval was only an army coup d'état. It may not be the last one.

THE CONVENTION of the Advertising Federation last month might have been held on Mars for all its concern with the problems and woes which are tormenting the minds and hearts of tens of millions of our population.

The advertising business is a big industry, with an annual turnover of billions of dollars. It is reputed to represent the country's select brains in the field of distribution and merchandising. With millions of people jobless and many other millions working part time—and at least a third of the country's buying

power crippled or destroyed—one might have expected that these wizards of merchandising would advance some rational plans that would at least point the way toward relieving our sadly clogged up national economy. Instead, the advertising agents are blazing forth the discovery that our buying power is "frozen with fear" and the thing to do is to "induce the people to buy in spite of their lack of confidence."

According to the best available information, the earnings of the wage earners and of salaried people in the United States have shrunk about 20 billion dollars in 1931. This shrinkage, furthermore, continues to grow, but as far as the advertising Solons are concerned they appear to be totally unaware of the calamity which has befallen such a great portion of our people. If you listen to them, it is just a case of "congealed purchasing ability" which could be thawed out by an assortment of peppy advertising slogans that would set the wheels of industry and retailing in full motion again.

Eulogies of the Late Pres. Schlesinger

By NORMAN THOMAS

The sad news that Benjamin Schlesinger is dead, while not entirely unexpected, comes as a great shock. Not only the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union but the whole labor movement has suffered a loss that is almost irreparable.

Benjamin Schlesinger's name is associated with the heroic days when the sweated workers in the women's garment trade became organized. He was their leader in winning victory after victory. The Communist split and changes in the nature of the industry brought evil days. Mr. Schlesinger resigned and was for some years out of the harness.

A few years ago in response to an insistent demand he returned again to the presidency. He found the Union in bad shape because of internal and external difficulties, and especially because of Communist mismanagement of a great strike in the trade. Under his leadership in spite of the depression the Union has made much progress in reasserting its hold in the industry as a whole. This progress is the more remarkable because within the last two or three years Mr. Schlesinger has had to work against the handicap of a chronic illness which he well knew could have only a fatal termination.

His struggle to carry on has been a gallant and an inspiring thing to all of us who knew him. To his family and to his Union which was dearer to him

than life itself I send my very deep sympathy.

By ISIDORE NAGLER

With the passing away of President Schlesinger, all of us who have had the privilege of working side by side with him for many years past in the common service of our International, feel that a part of the soul of our Union is gone.

Not only we, not only the membership of our Union towards the building of which he had contributed so much, but the whole world identified our International with the name and the life of President Schlesinger. It was so difficult to separate the two, so deeply and indelibly has our departed leader inscribed his name and stamped his personality upon our Union. And as we look back upon the history of the I.L.G.W.U. from almost the day of its inception, it is hard to point to a single great achievement in its career, to an outstanding accomplishment in the realm of our industry that is not directly or indirectly associated with the name of Benjamin Schlesinger.

And at this moment of grief, when our whole membership and the entire Labor movement of America is joining with us in paying our last tribute to President Schlesinger, I wish to give expression to the thought that he had in the fullest sense of the term sacrificed his life rather than to weaken our Union. And the tragic circumstances under which

he accepted reelection as leader of the International at our last convention, when barely able to stand up under the ravages of his fatal illness, he consented to carry aloft the banner of our Union with his last ounce of strength—only give striking proof to the idea that Benjamin Schlesinger died as a true martyr to the cause of our movement, to the cause of the organized workers the world over.

By JAMES ONEAL

Schlesinger gave years of his labor to inspiring the garment workers to revolt. There is little doubt that his sweatshop life and the overstrain of those years of agitation brought on the complication of diseases that culminated in his death. There was something sad in his features, something wistful and tragic that was suggestive of nearly two decades of struggle before the garment workers emerged in a fighting trade union of their class.

In the past ten years the fatal disease that finally struck him down sapped more and more of his vitality. Schlesinger plodded on in his work, eager to serve the workers he loved, but the pulse beat fainter with each passing month. Now he is gone, mourned by thousands who fought the good fight for the slaves of the old sweatshop regime.

Good, bye, Ben. Your spirit lingers with us. Your wan face and your frail body and your unconquerable soul will not be forgotten. You have earned the right to rest; may you sleep well!

Condolence Messages on Schlesinger's Death

Deeply grieved to learn of the death of President Schlesinger. Along with you and your associate officers I am deeply conscious of the loss which the organized Labor movement has sustained as a result of his death. I extend to members of bereaved family, through you, my sincere sympathy.

WILLIAM GREEN

President, American Federation of Labor

It is with great regret that I received the information of the death of President Benjamin Schlesinger. There has been no greater potent force in the history of the ladies' garment workers organization which has done so much for the benefit of the workers employed in the needle trades. Kindly convey my deepest sympathy to his family and to the officers and membership of your International Union.

FRANK MORRISON

I am profoundly shocked at the death of your distinguished father. It was my privilege to have known him over a long period of years and his sterling qualifications as a man, a citizen and a great leader of the trade union movement caused him to be admired by all who knew him. I extend to all of the members of his bereaved family my deep sympathy in their great loss.

JOHN L. LEWIS

President, United Mine Workers.

The terrible news of the loss of our great Schlesinger has just reached us. It is an irreparable loss to the Union and to the Labor movement. At the grave of our chief we pray that you build up a strong harmonious Union. Forget all political differences. Stand united for the cause for which our leader has sacrificed his life.

MR. & MRS. ABRAHAM BAROFF

I am shocked and grieved to hear of the death of my dear friend Benjamin Schlesinger. For many years I have had the pleasure of working with him closely in industrial problems. I had formed for him the highest regard and affection and feel a personal loss in his passing. Please accept my sincerest sympathy.

HERBERT H. LEHMAN

Lieutenant-Governor, State of N. Y.

On behalf of the Central Trades and Labor Council we extend our deepest sympathy to your organization on the loss of President Schlesinger.

JOSEPH P. RYAN, President

JAMES C. QUINN, Secretary

Please convey to the family and associates of Mr. Schlesinger my sincere sympathy in the loss of a kind husband and father and an able and conscientious leader of his fellow workers who trusted him implicitly.

W. N. DOAK,

Secretary of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Accept my sincere sympathy and condolence in your bereavement.

TILLIE SIGMAN

Sudden death of Benjamin Schlesinger shocked me. Join you in sorrow at loss of one of most useful labor leaders.

DR. AARON SINGALOWSKY.

The death of your president, my good friend Benjamin Schlesinger, has been a real grief to me. While I was chairman of committee appointed by Governor Smith to mediate differences in Suit and Cloak industry, of which Commission Lieutenant-Governor Herbert H. Lehman, Supreme Court Justice Bernard L. Shientag, and Prof. Lindsay Rogers were members, I came to know Mr. Schlesinger very well through intimate contact with him. He was always fair and reasonable and was a great force for good in the adjustment of differences between employers and employees. Also he was a man who had a beautiful outlook on life. He had a record of long and honorable achievement and left a memory of good deeds. Please express to his family the assurance of my sincere sympathy.

GEORGE GORDON BATTLE

Please accept for the membership of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union the sympathy of the officers and directors of Pioneer Youth in the death of your President Benjamin Schlesinger. We will always remember him as the leader of a Union that is one of our own founders and steadfast supporters.

WALTER LUDWIG,

Executive Director

Manumet Associates conducting Manumet School for children of workers, one of many educational enterprises in which the International has shown interest, join with others in extending sympathy to officers and members of International on the death of President Schlesinger. We hope International will march on despite all obstacles to greater and greater victories.

A. J. MUSTE,

President, Board of Directors

The staff of the New Leader expresses its grief over the passing of our comrade and soldier of human liberation, Benjamin Schlesinger. Hundreds of thousands of workers who know him will gather at his bier in spirit to pay their tribute of affection to his memory.

JAMES ONEAL,

Editor of The New Leader

I join with you in mourning the loss of our dear beloved chief executive, Benjamin Schlesinger. Sorry, due to illness I am unable to attend funeral. Convey my condolences to Mrs. Schlesinger and her family.

ABRAHAM ROSENBERG,

Ex-President I. L. G. W. U.

The shocking news about the sudden loss of our great leader brought grief and sorrow to the tens of thousands of our members to whom his able leadership brought happiness and joy. We all join with you in mourning the loss of our dear Benjamin Schlesinger whose memory we will never forget.

JOINT BOARD CLOAKMAKERS UNION

ISIDORE NAGLER, Gen. Mgr.

PHILIP ANSEL, President

MORRIS J. ASHBES, Sec'y-Treas.

Accept our heartfelt regret at the sudden passing of our President, whose life has been devoted to the service and defense of the working class. He died like a soldier on the battlefield, fighting for the benefits of the workers, upholding the rights of our International and refusing to surrender any ground to the enemy. His death is a great loss to our International and to the Labor movement.

JOINT BOARD DRESS & WAISTMAKERS' UNION

ISIDORE WASILEVSKY, Chairman;

JULIUS HOCHMAN, General Mgr.

ANTONINO CRIVELLO, Secretary

We, London cloakmakers, the United Ladies' Tailors Trade Union, share with you the grief and sorrow in the loss of your great leader and our esteemed and respected friend. Schlesinger's premature death is an irreparable loss not only to you but to the whole trade union movement. May you find consolation in the rapid progress of your organization for which Schlesinger lived and died, and may his memory serve as an inspiration to his successor to lead you from victory to victory.

On behalf of the Executive Council,

J. L. FINE, Secretary

ANGEL, Chairman

SILVER, Chairman

It is with deep sorrow that we have learned of the death of Benjamin Schlesinger, the president of your organization, and we extend to your organization and the family of the deceased our expression of sympathy and sorrow in your great loss. Benjamin Schlesinger was an able, fearless, conscientious advocate of the cause of the workers and his great service to the workers rendered during the period of his entire life, will serve as a monument to perpetuate his memory and will inspire others to carry on his great work in the interests of his fellow men.

THOS. KENNEDY,
Secretary-Treasurer,
United Mine Workers of America

Sorry indeed to hear of the sad death of your distinguished and able president, Benjamin Schlesinger. The great services he has rendered to his own splendid organization and the general Labor movement will always remain as a monument in the hearts and minds of his many friends and admirers throughout the country. I desire to express to you the sincere sympathy of our Association over his passing.

JAMES MALONEY,
President Glass Bottle Blowers Assn.

The news of the untimely death of President Schlesinger came to us as a terrible shock. His yeoman service in the Labor movement generally and your organization in particular will always be remembered. Accept our most heartfelt sympathy for yourself and for the bereaved family. With you and the members of the Amalgamated we bow our heads in deep grief.

AMALGAMATED CLOTHING
WORKERS OF AMERICA
SIDNEY HILLMAN, Gen. Pres.
JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG,
General Secretary-Treas.

The passing away of Benjamin Schlesinger is not only a great loss to the I. L. G. W. U. where his leadership was supreme, but it is felt deeply by the entire Labor movement. Few men have given more to the cause and the ideals of the Labor movement. Please accept the sincere condolence of the Boston Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

PHILIP DELUCA, Manager

It was with profound regret that we learned of the death of your beloved President Benjamin Schlesinger. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to his family and your organization in this great loss.

INTERNATIONAL POCKETBOOK
WORKERS' UNION

The shock of Benjamin Schlesinger's sudden death is too painful to permit me to express my grief. In his demise the ladies' garment workers have lost their foremost leader and most fearless defender, the Labor movement of America has lost one of its staunchest and most aggressive champions. His was a life of unceasing struggle for his fellow men and as he lived he died—a courageous warrior in the line of duty. Together with the thousands of cap and millinery workers I shall ever cherish the memory of our loyal friend and comrade, Benjamin Schlesinger. Please convey to his family and to your entire membership our condolences in their great loss.

M. ZARITSKY, President,
CLOTH HAT, CAP AND MILLINERY
WORKERS INTERN'L UNION

Was shocked to hear the news of the death of our beloved friend, Benjamin Schlesinger. Please accept my profound sympathy. I have the abiding faith that the name and accomplishments of our deceased friend Schlesinger will be cherished and remembered for a long time by organized Labor and its friends.

PIETRO LUCCHI,
President International Fur Workers
Union

We are deeply grieved over the untimely death of President Benjamin Schlesinger. It is a great loss to your organization. Accept our deepest sympathy.

T. A. RICKERT, General President
J. L. WINES, Gen. Secy-Treas.
United Garment Workers of America.

Kindly express my deepest sympathy also that of the other officers and members of the International Photo Engravers Union to the family of President Schlesinger and the officers and members of your organization. The loss of President Schlesinger is a universal one.

EDWARD J. VOLZ, President
International Photo Engravers
Union of N. A.

Poale Zion Zwere Zion Party regrets deeply Benjamin Schlesinger's death. As President of the I.L.G.W.U. and leader of the American labor movement he guarded labor's interests, especially those of your International, till the last day, sacrificing own life. He also devoted his efforts to the Jewish social cultural problems. Honored be his memory.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

It is with deep sorrow that we learn of the death of Benjamin Schlesinger, our leader in the Socialist and Trade Union movement. May the memory of his steadfast devotion to the workers be an encouragement to carry on the good work he accomplished.

CLOAKMAKERS BRANCH,
SOCIALIST PARTY.

Terribly shocked at the news of Schlesinger's death. It is a great loss not only to your organization but to the entire labor movement in America. Convey our deep sorrow to your members and to the family.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
WORKMEN'S CIRCLE

OTHER CONDOLENCE LETTERS RECEIVED:

My dear Mrs. Schlesinger:

Permit me to express to you my deep regret on the passing of your husband, Benjamin Schlesinger.

In my contact with Mr. Schlesinger, I have always been aware of a very brilliant mind and his loss will, I am sure, be a great one to the many thousands of working people who were so dependent on him.

With sincere sympathy, I am
Very truly yours,

FRANCES PERKINS,
Industrial Commissioner,
State Dept. of Labor.

Dear Mr. Dubinsky:

I want to express to you and through you to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union my sorrow at learning of the death of Mr. Schlesinger. His courageous fight against his lingering fatal illness was only another example of his fearlessness and of his devotion to the causes which he held dear. I am sure that there will be others who will carry on the battles in his masterly way but his personality will be missed by all of his friends.

Sincerely yours,
JAMES MARSHALL

Dear Brother Dubinsky:

On behalf of the New York Women's Trade Union League I wish to express our deep sorrow at the death of President Schlesinger. We feel that the labor movement could ill afford to lose so able and conscientious a leader and his loss is irreparable.

Fraternally yours,
ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN,
President.

My dear Mr. Dubinsky:

Will you be good enough to convey to the officials of the I. L. G. W. U. and to the family of Benjamin Schlesinger not only my sympathy at his death but also my admiration for the valiant fight he put up against such odds? It was a rare exhibition of courage and will-power to see him carry on in the face of failing health, and that against such difficulties as only a union official knows.

It is a privilege to have been associated with Mr. Schlesinger in the few services I have been personally able to render to the Union. A large compensation for the time I put in was the contact with his courageous spirit and fair mind.

Sincerely yours,
ROGER N. BALDWIN.

Dear Mr. Dubinsky:

The writer and his associates have just read, with profound sorrow, announcement of the death of your esteemed President and our good friend, Mr. Benjamin Schlesinger.

In the passing of so valued a friend and associate, we fully realize the great loss you have sustained, and extend to you our most heartfelt sympathy.

Sincerely yours,
J. W. HARRIMAN.

Dear Comrade Dubinsky:

Please accept my sincere and heartfelt condolences at the passing of your distinguished President and co-worker, Benjamin Schlesinger.

Not only your Union and the labor movement but the Socialist Party suffers a distinct loss. He was a man of tremendous energy and influence and was always active in the cause of labor. He did not know the meaning of failure; whenever he undertook anything, he carried it through to success.

May his example of industry, courage and devotion be an inspiration to those who came within the sphere of his influence.

Sincerely,
DANIEL W. HOAN,
Mayor of the City of Milwaukee.

Dear Mr. Dubinsky:

The news of the death of Benjamin Schlesinger was a shock to his many friends in the Federal Department of Labor and especially in the Conciliation Service where he was so well and favorably known over a long period.

He was so well informed on all matters affecting the well being of his people and labored always for their advancement that it will be difficult to fill the place he occupied in the great organization he led for so many years.

To his wife and children as well as

to his associates in the garment workers, we extend our deepest sympathy in the loss that has come to them in the passing of Benjamin Schlesinger.

Very sincerely yours,
HUGH L. KERWIN,
Director of Conciliation
U. S. Department of Labor.

From Education Alliance:

The Trustees of the Educational Alliance extend to you their heartfelt sympathy in your bereavement.

In many respects the efforts of Mr. Schlesinger and those of the Educational Alliance paralleled for while he and his associates labored to improve working conditions in the needle industries the Educational Alliance endeavored to provide for the educational, recreational, social and religious needs of the workers and their children.

The Trustees of the Educational Alliance beg you to accept this message of condolence and this tribute to the memory of one whom they admired and respected.

From Union Health Center:

As an International Ladies' Garment Workers' Institution, the Union Health Center has sustained in the death of President Schlesinger an irreparable loss.

By the death of President Schlesinger the Union Health Center has lost a friend and co-worker. Together with the entire labor movement the Union Health Center grieves for his untimely death and joins the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union family in honoring his memory.

Other Telegrams of Condolence Received from:

Elias Reisberg.
Chas. Kreindler.
Cloak & Suit Finishers' Union, Local 9.
Local 8, San Francisco.
Local 70, Portland.
Locals 4 and 110 Baltimore.
Local 85, Los Angeles.
Local 75, Worcester.
Local 67, Toledo.
St. Louis Joint Board.
Philadelphia Cloak Joint Board.
Boston Joint Board.
Montreal Joint Council.
Chicago Joint Board.
Dudley D. Sicher.
John W. Jordan.
P. Muccigrosso.
Louis Benenjohn, Chicago.
I. Grossman.
I. Relkin.
Morris Kolchin.
John J. Leary, Jr., United States Department of Labor.

Morris Rothenberg.
Raymond V. Ingersoll.
Hyman Schoolman, Chicago.
A. Sussman, Labor Editor, "Jewish World," Philadelphia.
Jacob Ginsburg, publisher, "Jewish World," Philadelphia.
G. Zybert.
Pioneer Youth.
J. Levitt, manager Los Angeles Jewish Daily Forward.
Upholsterers, Carpet and Linoleum Mechanics' International Union of North America.
National Executive Committee, Independent Workmen's Circle.
Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society.
Moving Picture Machine Operators' Union, Local 306.
The Teachers' Union of New York.
Providence District Committee, Workmen's Circle.
Board of Officials Cloakmakers' Joint Board.
Baltimore Office Jewish Daily Forward.
Central Jewish Branch, Socialist Party of Philadelphia.
Cleveland Office Jewish Daily Forward.
Philadelphia Joint Board Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.
Retailers Cleaners and Tailors Union, Local 1.
Boston Office Jewish Daily Forward.
American Cloak & Suit Manufacturers' Association, Inc.
Detroit Office Jewish Daily Forward.
Affiliated Dress Manufacturers, Inc.
Brookwood Labor College.
Federation Bank and Trust Company.
Los Angeles Sanatorium and Ex-patients Home.
Unity House Management and staff.
Pattern Makers & Production Men's Association.
Philadelphia Labor Institute.
Joint Board Shirt & Boys Blouse Workers Union of New York.
Cincinnati Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.
Retail Cleaners and Tailors Union, Local 2.
City Committee of the Workmen's Circle of St. Louis.
San Francisco Local Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.
Chicago Hebrew Typo-Union 903.
New England Bureau Jewish Socialist Verband.
Workers of Dutkins Dress Shop, Philadelphia.
Workers of Astor & Kramer Dress Shop, Philadelphia.
Mortimer C. Ritter, Principal Central Needle Trades School.
John A. Shillady.

Floral Tributes Received From:

General Executive Board, I.L.G.W.U.
 Joint Board Cloakmakers' Union, N. Y.
 Joint Board Dress & Waistmakers' Union, N. Y.
 Board of Officials—N. Y. Joint Board Cloakmakers' Union.
 Office Staff, I.L.G.W.U.
 Chicago Joint Board.
 Cleveland Joint Board.
 Philadelphia Joint Board.
 Montreal Joint Council.
 Toronto Joint Board.
 Boston Joint Board.
 Locals 4 and 110 of Baltimore.
 St. Louis Joint Board.
 William Green, president A.F. of L.
 Matthew Woll, vice-president A.F. of L.
 Herbert H. Lehman, Lieutenant-Governor State of N. Y.
 Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Cahan.
 Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Vlodeck.
 George W. Alger.
 Mr. and Mrs. Morris Hillquitt.
 Nina E. Hillquitt.
 Raymond V. Ingersoll.
 Mr. and Mrs. Morris Berman.
 David Dubinsky.
 Forward Association.
 Fervantungarath Jewish Daily Forward.
 Editorial Staff—Jewish Daily Forward.
 Business Staff—Jewish Daily Forward.
 Composing Room—Jewish Daily Forward.
 Zukunft, (monthly journal of the Forward).
 Ort Federation.
 United Hebrew Trades.
 Workmen's Circle-General Office.
 Branch 1, W.C.
 New York Women's Trade Union League.
 Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.
 Chicago Joint Board, Amalgamated.
 New York Clothing Cutters' Union, Local 4, A.C.W.
 Bookkeepers', Stenographers' & Accountants' Union, 12646, A.F. of L.
 Furriers' Joint Council.
 Cloth, Hat, Cap & Millinery Workers' International Union.
 United Neckwear Workers' Union.
 Socialist Party of New York.
 Butchers' Union, Local 234.
 Chicago Jewish Daily Forward.
 Central Committee, Jewish Socialist Verband.
 Chicago District Committee, Workmen's Circle.
 Union Health Center.
 Unity House.
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack White, Local 10.
 Out-of-Town Department, I.L.G.W.U.
 Educational Department, I.L.G.W.U.
 Cloak & Suit Operators' Union, Local 1, N. Y.
 Samplemakers' Union, Local 3, N. Y.
 Operators' Union, Local 5, Chicago.
 Cloakmakers' Union, Local 8, San Francisco.

Cloak & Suit Finishers' Union, Local 9, N. Y.
 Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union, Local 10, N. Y.
 Infant, Children Coat & Reefer Makers' Union, Local 17, N. Y.
 Waterproof Garment Workers' Union, Local 20, N. Y.
 Cloakmakers' Union, Local 21, Newark, N. J.
 Dressmakers' Union, Local 22, N. Y.
 Skirtmakers' Union, Local 23, N. Y.
 Operators' Union, Local 26, Cleveland.
 Dressmakers' Union, Local 27, Cleveland.
 Finishers' Union, Local 29, Cleveland.
 Cloak & Dress Pressers' Union, Local 35, N. Y.
 Pressers' Union, Local 37, Cleveland.
 Ladies' Tailors Union, Local 38, N. Y.
 Cutters' Union, Local 42, Cleveland.
 Italian Cloakmakers' Union, Local 48, N. Y.
 Waist & Dressmakers' Union, Local 50, Philadelphia.

Finishers' Union, Local 59, Chicago.
 Whitegoods Workers' Union, Local 62, N. Y.
 Cloakmakers' Union, Local 65, Los Angeles.
 Bonnaz Embroidery & Tuckers & Hemstitchers Union, Local 66, N. Y.
 Cloakmakers' Union, Local 67, Toledo.
 Cloakmakers' Union, Local 70, Portland.
 Cloakmakers' Union, Local 75, Worcester.
 Cutters' Union, Local 31, Chicago.
 Italian Dressmakers' Union, Local 89, N. Y.
 Children's Dressmakers' Union, Local 91, N. Y.
 Dressmakers' Union, Local 100, Chicago.
 Workers of Cohen & Weinberg, N. Y.
 Workers of G. & G. Dress, N. Y.
 Workers of Nudelman & Conti, N. Y.
 Industrial Council Cloak & Suit Mfrs., N. Y.
 American Cloak & Suit Association, N. Y.
 Merchants Ladies' Garment Assn., N. Y.
 A. George, Florist.
 Fred Spitz, Florist.

"Coming Events Cast Their Shadows Before"

Drawn for LABOR by John M. Baer



Many Congratulate President Dubinsky

Sincerest congratulations. I have the fullest confidence in your ability and capacity. I wish you luck. You will always find me ready to serve you.

B. C. VLADECK.

In the name of the common people I salute you as our general. We trust you and we will follow your leadership.

SAMUEL HEIFERLING.

Dear Brother Dubinsky:

Realizing, as I do, that your tasks will be heavy and your responsibility great; that all your time and energy will be given to the solving of the difficult problems confronting your membership; that every minute of your time will be spent on the International proper,—to these tasks and responsibilities I offer you my cooperation and good wishes.

I earnestly hope that as president of the organization responsible for the existence of the Dental Department, you will take pride in the fact that the Union Health Center in general, and the Dental Department in particular, has, thus far, survived all other institutions (save the Unity House) sponsored by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. I know that you will be glad to know that the Dental Department, at the present time, is looked upon with respect and admiration by both the entire labor movement and by the profession. We have reached a point where we are regarded as pioneers in the field of industrial dentistry. To the International belongs the credit for having started the Dental Department. In your new capacity as president, I trust that you will take an interest not only in the Dental Department, but in the Union Health Center as a whole.

DR. MAX PRICE,
Director, Dental Department
Union Health Center.

Central Trades & Labor Council of New York.

Jacob Halpern, ex-Vice-president I.L.G.W.U.

New York Joint Board Cloakmakers' Union.

United Hebrew Trades.

Tillie Sigman, Storm Lake, Ia.

International Pocketbook Workers Union.

Poale Zion Zeire Zion of America.

Cutters Mutual Aid Association.

Abraham Baroff.

Louis Waldman.

Joseph Schlossberg, General Secretary
Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

Jacob S. Petofsky, Assistant General
Secy. Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

Federation Bank & Trust Company.

Harriman National Bank.

The Jewish World.

Maurice L. Polln, Baltimore Forward.

Leon Arkin, Boston Forward.

New York Joint Board Dress & Waist-
makers' Union.

Officers of Dress & Waistmakers' Joint
Board of N. Y.

Antonino Crivello, secretary-treasurer
N. Y. Dress Joint Board.

Executive Board Dressmakers Union,
Local 22.

Joe Schneider, business agent Local 22.
N. M. Minkoff.

Benjamin Moser, member Local 1.

Executive Board Cloak Finishers Union,
Local 9.

Cutters Union, Local 10.

Maurice W. Jacobs, president Local 10.

Children's Coats and Reesermakers'
Union, Local 17.

Executive Board Skirtmakers Union,
Local 23.

Executive Board Ladies Tailors Union,
Local 38.

Italian Cloakmakers Union, Local 48.

White goods Workers Union, Local 62.

Buttonhole Makers Union, Local 64.

Italian Dressmakers Union, Local 89.

A. Brick, manager Local 64.

Executive Board Bonnaz Embroidery and
Tuckers & Hemstitchers Union, Local
66.

Executive Board Examiners Union, Local
82.

Waterproof Garment Workers Union,
Local 20.

Executive Board Children's Dressmakers'
Union, Local 91.

Chicago Joint Board.

Cleveland Joint Board.

Abraham W. Katovsky, Cleveland Joint
Board.

Montreal Joint Council.

B. Gilbert, manager St. Louis Joint
Board.

Edith Kalish, Abraham Bloomfield, Aaron
Einblinder, Gertrude Rancer, Clara
Weiss, Max Wexler, Benj. Feldman,
Nathan Petrosky—active members of
Local 50, Philadelphia.

Ben Evry, Local 10.

Louis Forer, Local 10.

Morris Aloviz, Local 10.

Harry Zaslowsky, Local 10.

Moe Falikman, Local 10.

Louis Stulberg, Local 10.

Samuel Leader, Local 10.

Adolph Feldblum, impartial chairman,
Dress Industry of New York.

Alexander Kahn.

Morris Rothenberg.

Meyer Bloomfield.

William C. Liller, Commissioner of Con-
ciliation.

Geverkshaffen Committee for Palestine
Labor.

New York Women's Trade Union League.

Cloakmakers' Union of Baltimore.

Cloak & Dressmakers Union of Boston.

Cloakmakers' Union of Philadelphia.

Dressmakers' Union of Philadelphia.
M. Domsy, business agent Philadelphia
Cloak Joint Board.

F. Kraisman, Toronto Joint Board.

A. Kirzner, Toronto Joint Board.

Executive Board, Local 1.

Designers Guild of Ladies Apparel.

Belle L. Moskowitz.

Benjamin Stolberg.

Phillip Cohen, member Local 9.

Toronto Joint Board Cloak & Dressmak-
ers' Union.

Clarence Senior, executive secretary So-
cialist Party of America.

A. J. Muste, director Brookwood College.
Chas. Jacobson.

Moving Picture Machine Operators'
Union, Local 306.

Executive Board Cloak & Suit Operators
Local 5, Chicago.

Cloakmakers' Union, Local 8 of San
Francisco.

Jacob Billikopf, impartial chairman
men's clothing industry of N. Y. City.

Dr. Henry Moskowitz.

Lillian D. Wald.

Frances Perkins, Industrial Commission-
er, State Dept. of Labor.

Elias Lieberman.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lang.

Morris Novik.

Nathan Mintz.

Sara and Nathan Pogron.

Cloakmakers' Union, Local 67, Toledo.

Max L. Gordon, Local 10.

Alex Melnick, Local 1.

Morris Goldowsky, manager Brownsville
Office.

Basilio Desti, manager Downtown Office.
Bernard Shane, organizer, I.L.G.W.U.

Dear Brother Dubinsky:

In the absence of Dr. George M. Price,
may I, in behalf of the Union Health
Center, take this opportunity of extend-
ing to you our hearty congratulations
upon your election to the presidency of
the International Ladies' Garment Work-
ers' Union.

PAULINE M. NEWMAN.

Benj. Schlesinger As I Knew Him

By SAUL YANOVSKY

I cannot recall having ever heard him laugh. In fact, I rarely saw him smile—even in the best of times, when everything seemed to be going smooth.

Occasionally one would make an attempt to make him feel a bit happier by recounting an anecdote or a personal experience, but it would seldom work; Schlesinger would remain as austere and as impenetrable as ever.

A sick man, a hard-hearted man, some of those who met Ben Schlesinger believed him to be. That he was a sickly man was true. Perennial rheumatism frequently made him cross and irascible. Schlesinger, however, was by no means unkind or flint-hearted. I know of too many persons whom he had helped or was ready to help in various ways without either themselves or anyone else knowing anything about it.

No, Schlesinger was not unkind by nature, but he undoubtedly was a very embittered person. His bitterness was the rust upon the iron of his soul which had corroded it during his early youth, his first immigrant days in America, and perhaps even before that, while he was growing up as a small boy in a Lithuanian village. The bitter want he had experienced in those years had placed its hard stamp upon his make-up for the rest of his life and would not let him taste in full even of the joys of success and the exultations of personal triumph which later years had brought him.

"Do you know," Schlesinger once told me, "according to all the rules of life I should have gone off on the wrong track when I was a youngster. The horrors of those early years actually were driving me into evil ways. . . ." For hours Schlesinger would recount to me incidents of his sorrowful days when he first came to Chicago from the small Lithuanian town where he was born, until he had finally become a "helper" to a cloak operator.

There were a great many others who had gone through in those days, together with him, suffering and humiliation; yet while these others seemed to have quickly forgotten the early sorrows of their lives, Schlesinger apparently never was able to erase those early impressions from his memory. And frequently I used to think that all the dynamic energy he displayed in the fight for the interests of workers had been inspired not merely by altruism for the cause to which he actually had given his entire life, but also by a smoldering feeling of vengeance for all the injustice he had suffered during the first years of his life in America.

Yes, Schlesinger was an intense hater—a hater of all that was bad, mean, hypocritical; a hater of all whom life has treated much better than they deserved it; a hater of all who would take advantage of the worker's helplessness, weakness and stupidity for their own personal use; and, most of all, he hated the mountebanks who would attempt to drug the minds of the workers by glib, deceptive phrases and flowery talk.

Yet, Schlesinger could love as strongly as he could hate, though he obviously was rather out of his sphere in displaying affection. Someone, I recall, has said somewhere that every human being wears a mask; most people, in addition, mask themselves in order to appear nicer than what they really are. Schlesinger, however, would mask himself largely to appear less attractive than what he actually was.

Sickly and embittered, Schlesinger was very often too severe towards his coworkers, and his treatment of them could not have gained for him many true friends, true comrades. All respected him and valued him highly for his unusual ability, for his love of work and for his loyalty and devotion to all he had ever undertaken to do for the welfare of the organization which he led. But he never seemed to value and understand the affection and comradeship of his associates and, quite likely, did not care to win it. There always seemed to be a wall between him and the people with whom he had associated closely for years. Schlesinger felt it and knew it, but he apparently could not help it. He just could not be otherwise.

I recall a conference a few years ago which he attended as the head of the International with a group of employers' representatives. The spokesman for the bosses at that meeting was the well-known lawyer, Max D. Steuer; Hillquit, as usual, appeared for the Union. But the actual mouthpiece for the Union was Schlesinger. He practically would not let Hillquit say a word, and I recall Mr. Steuer's compliment addressed to Schlesinger: He, said Mr. Steuer, is the only man among us who knows what he wants and knows how to get it.

Yes, that was one of Schlesinger's strongest traits. He always knew what he was after and he also always knew that he had the will to crash through obstacles no matter where they came from—the outside or inside. And as far

as I can recall, he was one of the first Jewish labor leaders who understood the great value of public opinion in the fight for union interests. Of course, Schlesinger never considered public opinion as the only important factor to be utilized for the improvement of the condition of the workers. Better than anyone else he realized that, first and last, the workers must have a strong and fighting union, and he bent all his energies in that direction. But Schlesinger also knew that when the hour came to measure strength with the employers, public opinion was a valuable asset and he employed all his extraordinary gifts to win this opinion to his side.

Nevertheless, I recall a case when, after Schlesinger had realized that the public opinion was out of accord with the aim he had set himself to accomplish, he had the courage to defy it and he won out.

That was during the great fight in 1920-1921, after the International had obtained an injunction against the cloak manufacturers' association for having broken its collective agreement. That injunction created a storm in the labor movement. Not only his perennial enemies, the Communists, were attacking him for it, but even Compers seemed displeased with Schlesinger's strategy. On the other hand, everybody appeared to recognize that Schlesinger had got the employers by the throat and the latter would have to capitulate. Nevertheless, Schlesinger was being deluged by advice from all sides to break away from Untermyer who was instrumental in getting that injunction, and Labor Department functionaries from Washington were continually at his heels suggesting mediation and a "peaceful" settlement. To all this clamor, however, Schlesinger had but one reply: The employers must first comply by the agreement. The employers, in the end, surrendered and opened up their factories.

Yes, Schlesinger frequently utilized, and with great effect, the force of public opinion, but he never permitted public opinion to mould the Union's course, and when public opinion would occasionally get in his way, he did not hesitate to ignore it or oppose it and then go on to win without it.

Schlesinger's stubbornness, his iron will was one of the Union's greatest assets, and that's why, whether personally liked or disliked, his importance and force had to be recognized by everybody,

and, hard as it may have been for many people, they had to bow to his will.

On the other hand, there had been cases when his stubbornness brought no good to the organization. I recall, at this moment, the following occasion. One morning, Schlesinger invited me to go to Philadelphia with him where conferences with cloak manufacturers and dress manufacturers were to take place. Our first meeting, in the forenoon, was with the cloak employers, and I have never seen Schlesinger handle a situation so delicately and velvet-like. He got from them all he wanted at that session and, probably, could have had anything his heart desired for the asking.

In the afternoon, we met with the dress manufacturers, who presented a set of demands of their own which they wound up with a request for a conference. I could not recognize Schlesinger at that meeting. The soft-spoken, agreeable man of the morning conference with the cloak men entirely disappeared and he was brusque and rude with the dress employers. "I want to have nothing to do with you," he cut them off sharply. To this day I cannot figure out the cause for that change, and when I remarked to him about it, he curtly told me that "I don't begin to understand what it is all about and that it is none of my affairs."

As known, a dress strike soon broke out in Philadelphia, lasting for more than a half year. That strike was lost after having cost the Union a huge fortune and left the Philadelphia dress organization in a wretched condition.

So here you have a case, where Schlesinger's iron will and unbending mind, so important for the Union on many other occasions, had proved to be harmful to it. Which only goes to prove that with all his gifts and devotion, Schlesinger was not altogether infallible in his judgment. It is clear, however, that whatever faults he may have possessed, they were largely due to the fact that Schlesinger was physically a sick man. Yet, with all his faults, he stood heads above all other labor leaders that I have met in my life.

...

Despite his poor health, Schlesinger was one of the most tireless men I have known. When necessary, he would work day and night, and I just cannot recall a time when he considered rest a necessity. Even on his vacations, even on his trips to Europe, he would continue to work or worry about the Union. He was continually fighting for more leisure for the workers, yet he seemed constantly to

begrudge himself even an hour of real rest. I used to meet him frequently during vacations—before and after I had become connected with the Union—at the seashore and at Unity House, and he seldom would have anything else to talk about but the Union. In vain would I implore him to stop talking "shop" for a spell—he would not let go. The Union was the alpha and omega of his entire life.

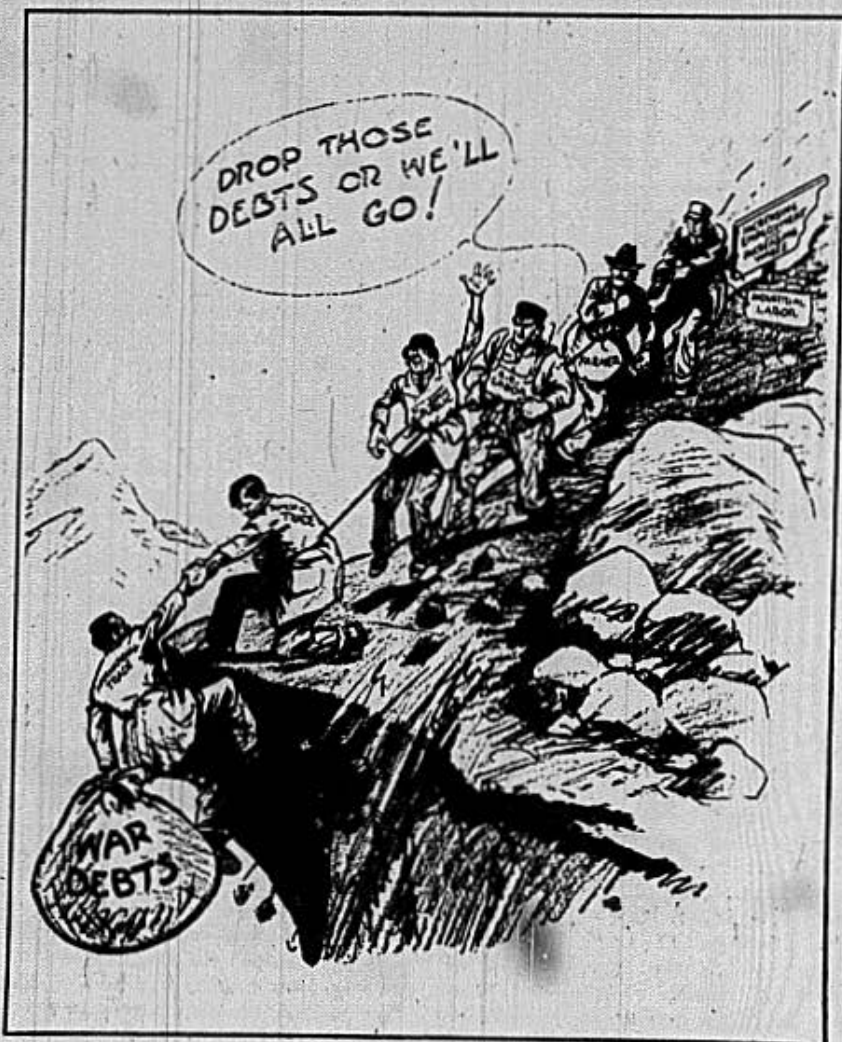
Yet, I want to say that Schlesinger's life, notwithstanding all these contradictions and paradoxes, was a happy one, full of activity and fruitful achievement. I know very few people who had the great happiness to find their life work a source of genuine satisfaction all the way through. Schlesinger was one of these rare fortunates. From the day he had joined the labor movement to his last day his work always had been the kind he loved and wished for. True, his work had made for him a lot of enemies who lied about him and who tried to

besmirch and slander him, and he often would take these things to heart. But, on the other hand, there were few men in the labor movement who had so much praise and recognition bestowed upon them as Schlesinger.

...

Of course, he died too young. He could have still accomplished a great deal, but when one looks back upon Ben Schlesinger's life's record, one is inclined to conclude that he had a long life and that he had frequently accomplished in one year more things than what is given to many to accomplish in a lifetime.

One thing is certain: each minute of his life Schlesinger lived fully, with every fiber of his being, with all his mind and heart. He was one of the few real men of our drab and colorless period, and he had no one to thank for it but himself, his own driving, forceful personality.



1,400,000 Lose Jobs While Congress Delays

The government is practically ignoring the greatest business crisis of all time. Unemployment in industry has been increasing since January at the rate of 280,000 persons a month; 1,400,000 have lost their jobs since the first of the year. Temporarily, farm work provides a little relief, but if unemployment continues to increase at this rate we shall have over 13,000,000 out of work by next January.

In the face of this crucial problem of life and health or starvation, delays of Congress in passing relief legislation are sickening. The problem has outgrown local resources. This is a breakdown of economic institutions which calls for federal action. If relief is not provided, women and men will be forced to return to primitive ways of getting food for themselves and their children. People do not starve by tens of millions when they see plenty all around them.

Although the Reconstruction Finance Corporation has been rescuing more banks and railroads in the past month and the Federal Reserve has been sending out a steady stream of credit to the banks, this credit is not reaching the business firms who need it. Banks are still calling loans; the Federal Reserve has provided \$452,000,000 of new credit in the six weeks ending the second week of June by buying Government securities, the banks have actually decreased their commercial loans by \$92,000,000. Liberalization of rules for valuation of bank bond investments have saved banks, but the banks have not extended the same quality of mercy to those they serve. The banks have had full opportunity to cooperate in restoring business and have proved their inability.

Business Declines Continue

Meanwhile business declines continue. From the first week of May to the second week of June, stock prices declined 10.3 per cent, bond prices 5.7 per cent, prices of goods 2 per cent; business failures increased 2 per cent in May, and business activity was 6 per cent below the April level (preliminary).

Industries, not banks are the prime movers of business. Quite apart from continuing the rescue work for banks, let us pump the life blood back into production undertakings and provide jobs that will pay the workers, who would turn their incomes directly into retail buying.

There are two immediate essentials to create jobs and get business to working order: (1) Extend credit to business through government loans; (2) Launch an immediate program of government construction, following it with loans to

Facts and Figures from A. F. of L. Monthly Business Survey

municipalities and states for alum clearance. Neither of these expedients has been accomplished. The President urges giving the Reconstruction Finance Corporation power to make loans to states, municipalities, and private concerns for work to create employment, but Congress has not acted. Several bills for Government construction are before Congress, but lack necessary support.

This matter brooks no delay. It will be many months at best before even this aid can have widespread effect on employment and meanwhile the jobless are increasing at the rate of three million a year. The Young Committee, even if it does succeed in starting credit to business, cannot possibly accomplish the huge task of providing millions of jobs and starting business upward. Is the Government asleep to the colossal emergency that is overwhelming us?

The Gold Crisis

For nearly a year the world money crisis has dominated business, stifling activity and plunging nations into the deepest depression in history. Two major interferences with the free flow of finances were its chief causes (1) Unparalleled speculation and (2) the effort to pay war debts and reparations in gold.

1. Speculation: Investment of billions of dollars on our stock exchanges was possible only because stockholders and directors prevented a fair distribution of the wealth created by our industries to the producing group. In the eight years of record prosperity from 1921 to 1929, our national income increased by over 30 billion dollars, but the workers did not share proportionately in this increase. In 1921, they received 63 per cent of the total income; by 1926 they were receiving only 54 per cent; also from 1919 to 1929, production increased by 42 per cent while wages paid to workers increased only 27 per cent. Thus workers' share in the national income did not keep pace with production increases. Meanwhile industrial profits more than doubled—increasing 169 per cent from 1921 to 1929. These huge profits started stock values upward on the exchanges, and from 1923 onward made surplus funds of more than \$9,000,000,000 a year available to individuals and corporations. Because workers'

incomes did not furnish enough consuming power to buy increasing production, these funds could not be used in industrial operations. They found two uses: Speculation on the stock exchange and loans abroad.

Opportunities for speculative gains on the stock exchange turned enormous funds in this country to unproductive use and tempted foreign investors. Fourteen per cent for call loans brought unused capital from foreign countries; stable dollars attracted capital fleeing inflation and taxation abroad. Thus large foreign investments combined with the excess capital of U. S. corporations in the wild orgy of speculation. Billions of dollars were concentrated in New York and the collapse of stock values reacted round the world.

The European Puzzle

2. World Financial Chaos: The War left Europe impoverished with huge debts and reparations to pay. Loans from America made it possible for business to revive and created funds for debt and reparations payments. In our new role of world banker, we invested over \$6,000,000,000 abroad from 1922-23. When our loans dropped off from 1929 to '31 a serious situation was created in Europe.

Debt and reparation payments, eventually destroyed the delicate balance of world gold reserves. Since the world gold supply is barely enough for reserves against currency, accumulation in any country robs others. Normally trade between nations is an exchange of goods and gold payments are small. Europe sends us German chemicals, English wool goods, linens and tin. French lingerie and silks, and with the proceeds from her sales buys from us raw cotton, tobacco, copper, gasoline, automobiles, machinery. Gold payments only complete the balance.

The gold standard is supposed to maintain a balance in national currency and international trade. It gives the world an international money system, founded on stable values. Each country defines by law the weight of gold which constitutes its financial unit; pounds, francs, marks can be exchanged for gold and gold for dollars, lire, yen. But when unduly large amounts of gold are accumulated in some countries and others have not an adequate supply to clear trade balances and meet obligations, the system breaks down.

When large payments were required from Germany to the allied nations in reparations, and from Europe to the United States in war debts, gold reserves

piled up in France and the United States, and were depleted in other nations. From 1923 to date, France increased her gold reserves by \$2,400,000,000—more than triple her 1923 reserve. By March 1932, France had a gold reserve of \$2.9 per cent behind her note circulation, the United States 85.7 per cent, but in England gold reserves had shrunk to 33.5 per cent and in Germany to 20.8 per cent. France and the United States hold 61 per cent of the world's gold reserve.

This unbalance caused the breakdown of the gold standard in September 1931. Out of 46 important commercial nations, 22 are off the gold standard, 13 regulate gold exports so that the gold standard is practically though not officially suspended, only 5 are fully on gold.

The gold crisis had two serious effects: (1) Seventeen nations off the gold standard have seen their currency depreciate by one quarter of its value in the last year. Currency declines mean falling prices, driving us further into depression. (2) Nations on the gold exchange standard, holding their reserves in investments abroad (chiefly in the United States), hastened to bring them home in the panic that followed England's gold suspension. Withdrawals of over \$1,000,000,000 from the United States in the last nine months created constant apprehension. When France took her last balance this month, a long strain was relieved.

World Trade Decline

Besides these monetary troubles, debt and reparation payments caused another obstruction to world trade. Germany, in her effort to secure gold for international payments, tried to increase her sales of goods abroad. But other nations could not buy large quantities of German goods without injuring their own industries and throwing their own citi-

zens out of work. Tariff barriers were set up to protect home industries. The decline in world trade cut world exports by two fifths.

The collapse of world trade means directly the loss of 1,000,000 jobs for American citizens in industries producing and transporting exports or raw materials for their manufacture. But its indirect influence is far more sweeping. World price declines keep prices moving down at home and check production.

We cannot get back to full prosperity until the problem of war debts and reparations is solved. That Germany cannot pay further reparations at present was determined by the investigation of the committee of the Bank for International Settlements last fall. To collect the war debts will place further barriers in the way of world trade. In 1930 alone, our income losses from depression were 73 times the war debts paid us. Return to prosperity would ease tax burdens. In the prosperous years from 1923 to 1930 we paid off \$6,000,000,000 of our national debt, and taxes were not as high as under the new tax law.

The problem is now before the conference at Lausanne; its outcome will determine trade progress.

IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL FEATURES

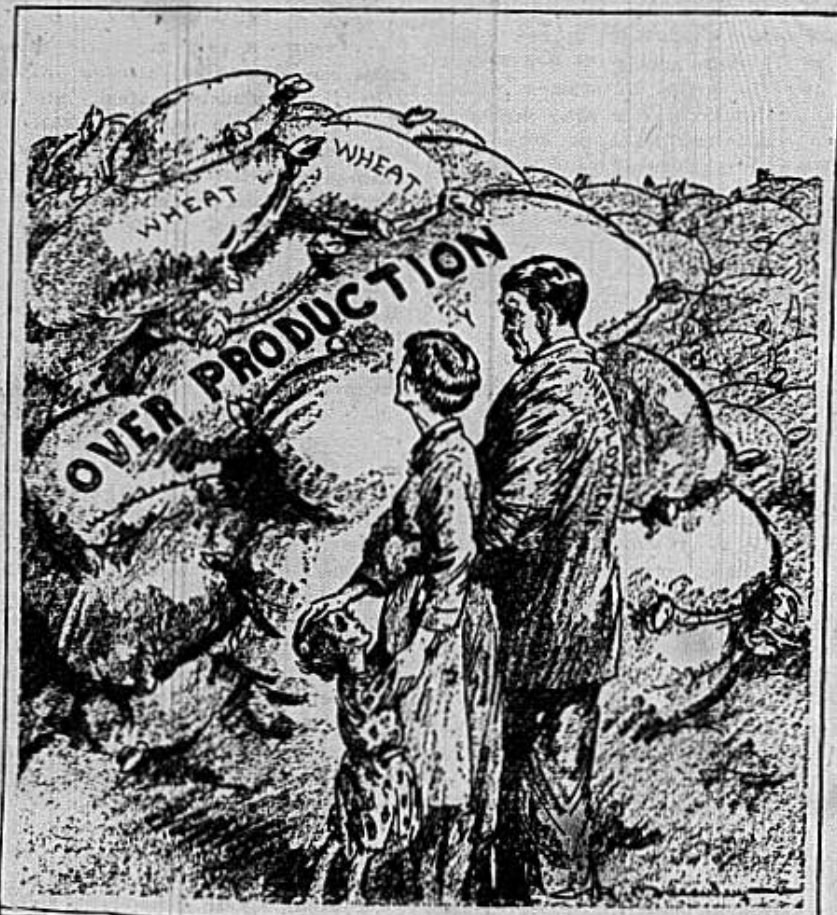
Among the features which provoked widespread and favorable comment at the public funeral of the late President Schlesinger, was the outdoor amplifying system installed on motorized trucks which carried the speeches delivered at the bier, both in the International Auditorium and in the Forward Hall, to the tens of thousands who stood in serried ranks for many blocks outside and were thus able to listen to every remark uttered inside the halls. This amplifying service was supplied by Motorized Talking Picture Service, Inc., 729 Seventh Avenue, a union firm.

Another impressive feature at the funeral was the skillful draping of the interior of the Auditorium and the very effective banking of the floral pieces on the platform and in the flanks. In charge of this work was Mr. A. George, of the Ararat Florist Co., 41-27 Queens Blvd., Sunnyside.

MAX STOLLER RESIGNS

Bro. Max Stoller, for more than two years manager of the Affiliated Department of the New York Dress Joint Board, tendered last week his resignation to Local 10, of which he is a member, and to the Joint Board.

Brother Stoller is a member of the Union since 1910, and in 1916 became an officer of Local 81, the Chicago Cutters' local. Upon his coming to New York, he became an officer of Local 10, and was president of the New York Cloak Joint Board in 1927, and after the dress general strike of 1930 was appointed, as the choice of Local 10, to be the manager of the Affiliated Department.



Drawn by C. E. Macaulay

The Month in Local 10

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER

Sfass Case Recommended To Executive Board

At the regular member meeting, held on Monday, June 13, before any business was presented, Chairman Jacobs, called upon the entire assembly to rise in memory of our deceased President, Benjamin Schlisinger. The members rose and stood in silence for a minute.

...

Among the cases submitted by the Executive Board was that of Isidore Sfass, 1239. This brother was summoned before the Executive Board on June 2, charged with participating in an open air meeting held on the corner of 38th Street and 7th Avenue, under the auspices of a Communist group, at which he slandered the officials of the International. He also resorted to other means of anti-union propaganda which is very injurious to the Union, especially at this time when it finds itself on the verge of a strike in the cloak industry. The Executive Board decided to recommend the expulsion of Sfass.

This decision created an animated discussion. Brother Sfass, as reported in a previous issue of "Justice," was also summoned before the Executive Board during the last general strike in the dress industry charged with having been active in the "industrial union," an organization formed by Communists to destroy our International Union. He was charged with having joined with other Communists during that strike, to display placards attacking the International and the strike while the dressmakers were out on the picket lines.

Sfass was at that time expelled by the Executive Board, but before the matter could be submitted to the membership meeting, another Executive Board meeting was held at which he again appeared and pleaded for leniency claiming that he recognizes the grave mistake he had made. He promised to disassociate himself from that scab organization and to be henceforth loyal to the Union. The Executive Board then decided to reconsider their previous decision and he was put on probation pending future behavior.

It appeared, however, that Sfass did not intend to live up to his pledge, and the Executive Board, therefore, decided to evoke the old decision. Notwithstanding the fact that he is already a dropped member constitutionally, under the local's rules, Sfass was, nevertheless, given the opportunity to defend himself at this membership meeting. In the course of

his speech he tried to justify his actions by stating that he did not slander the Union nor any of the officials but that he only called upon the cloakmakers in his audience not to permit the leaders of the Union to conduct the strike for them, that they themselves should take charge of the strike, and that they should not permit the leaders to settle the strike, but should constitute themselves as a settlement committee.

Among those members who participated in the discussion of this case were Isidore Goze, Harry Reichel, Martin Feldman, Samuel Greenberg, William Zweibon, Philip Ansel, Louis Golinsky, Louis Pankin, Victor Neufeld, and others. While some of the speakers did not fully agree to the expulsion of Brother Sfass they were all unanimous in condemning his actions.

Pres. Dubinsky Suggests Course of Action

President David Dubinsky, who attended this meeting, stated, in substance, that the question before the meeting was whether we believe in organized government or not. Our organization, he said, is based upon organized government; our laws and constitution, therefore, must be obeyed and respected. Brother Sfass, or anyone else, cannot go out in the open market and preach the doctrine of disruption, as he admitted he did. When Brother Sfass tells cloakmakers not to pay any attention to the leadership of the Union who were duly elected by the locals or by conventions, he is committing an act of treason. The by-laws of our Union, Brother Dubinsky continued, give the membership the right to elect new officers, and even to impeach officers for proper causes, and our members should make full use of such democratic rights.

Brother Sfass by his action has proved himself to be unworthy of the name "union man." However, Dubinsky averred, he does not agree with the decision of the Executive Board in expelling Brother Sfass, because that would make him a free lance and the Union would lose control of him. My idea, President Dubinsky continued, is that, instead of expelling him, a substantial fine be placed upon him, same to be paid within a period of four weeks, and if he should continue to violate the constitution, an additional fine be imposed upon him, but that he be kept within the organization so that his actions may always be watched and checked up.

Manager Perlmutter Concurs

Following President Dubinsky, Manager Samuel Perlmutter declared that insofar as he is personally concerned he has no objection that this matter be referred back to the Executive Board and considered in the spirit of President Dubinsky's presentation. Brother Sfass, Manager Perlmutter pointed out, is not being punished because he is a Communist. It is about time that this matter be cleared up so as not to create any confusion and misinterpretation about people being "persecuted" because of harboring certain political or philosophic principles. There are many active and loyal members with our organization, Brother Perlmutter emphasized, who entertain various ideas and are affiliated with different political parties. We are not concerned whether a member is a Communist, a Socialist, or a Republican as long as he adheres to the laws of our organization and observes union rules in the shop. But Brother Sfass has practically expelled himself by virtue of his actions.

There are people of the type of Brother Sfass, Brother Perlmutter added, who under the guise of radicalism have adopted a policy of slandering the Union and its elected officers. Our Local in particular, Brother Perlmutter continued, does not deprive anyone from expressing his opinions at meetings, and if he has any criticism to offer it should be done at meetings, within our own hall, where all union men alike have the opportunity to discuss matters.

Local Ten Conducting Organization Work Among Cutters

An investigation made by our controllers during the latter part of May and early in June, showed that a considerable number of cheap non-union dress firms, most of whom manufacture dresses as low as \$1.37, started operating cutting rooms in full swing. The office immediately became busy organizing committees of dress cutters to stop these shops, and this resulted in unionization of the following shops: Donnie Frocks, 254 West 35th Street; Louis Platt, 1375 Broadway; Alice Dress, 1372 Broadway and Virginia Frocks, 240 West 35th Street. In all these shops hours were reduced from 50 and 60 to 40 hours per week and increases in wages ranging from \$5.00 to \$7.00, were obtained. In the case of Virginia Frocks, the cutters testified that they worked 60 and 70 hours with no extra pay for overtime. In this shop hours were reduced to 40 per week and an increase in wages was obtained.

It is also worth noting that during the ten months of its existence this firm had the cutters work behind locked doors,

The Month in Local 10

(Continued from preceding page)

and on several occasions, particularly during the general strike in February, this shop was stopped off, but the cutters later returned to work. This time, however, our committee was able to achieve better results.

Welco Dress Forced to Take On New Shift for Night Work

Another typical illustration of conditions prevailing in the dress industry is that of the Welco Dress, 501 7th Avenue, a shop manufacturing \$1.37 dresses. This shop was recently organized. Prior to that the cutters worked unlimited hours without any extra pay. However, since this firm settled with the Union, the cutters are working 40 hours per week. A few weeks ago, the cutters were requested to work overtime, but the office refused to grant it. The firm, thereupon, threatened that unless the cutters are to be permitted to work overtime, they would proceed to give all their work out to contractors and, if necessary, give up the cutting department.

In the meantime information had reached the office that preparations are being made by this firm to give out piece-goods to non-union contractors, most of whom do not employ any cutters. The office proceeded to investigate the cutting department of this firm, which showed that there was no room in it for additional men, and we suggested that instead of overtime, the firm hire another set of cutters to work at night so as to give an opportunity to some of unemployed cutters to earn a living. The firm finally agreed to take up additional cutters for night work.

Shops of Wittenberg & Shimberg and Reisman & Rothman Settled After Two Weeks Strike

As usual, the Cloak Joint Board is confronted, at the end of each season, with reorganizations and dissolutions of firms going out of business. As a result of this the Joint Board has been conducting a number of strikes, some in large shops, such as Wm. H. Davidow & Sons, Metzger & Cohen, Reisman & Rothman, Wittenberg & Shimberg, Leon S. Lees, etc., Wittenberg & Shimberg and Reisman & Rothman are two important firms and employ as many as twenty cutters.

Shortly after the end of last season both these firms announced that they are giving up manufacturing and filed applications with the Merchants Ladies' Garment Association. The Union, however, discovered that the firm of Wittenberg & Shimberg which took out all machines

in order to assure the Union that they are determined not to re-open the factory under any consideration, had placed their designer in the contracting shop of Herman Sherman, 29 West 35th Street, hired sample makers and proceeded to make up a line of samples. Upon receiving this information the Union at once declared a strike against this firm. The cutters who have done some excellent work on the picket line in conjunction with the Out-of-Town Department of the International, headed by Harry Wander, visited a few shops in Belleville and Camden, N. J., and informed these firms that the firm of Wittenberg & Shimberg was out on strike and that until such time as that strike continued the Union would carry on the strike against them as well.

From all appearances this action had forced the Wittenberg & Shimberg firm to reconsider their previous decision, and after some negotiations, the firm finally agreed to reopen the factory and re-engage all the workers. The same situation prevailed in the shop of Reisman & Rothman. This firm which employs from 50 to 60 workers, in addition to 10 cutters, declared about two months ago that they were entering the jobbing business and asked all the workers to take their tools and look for other jobs. Later on, they changed their attitude and informed the Union that they would reconsider their decision if the Union would agree to have them run fourteen machines instead of the twenty-three they had previously and would grant them a corresponding reduction of the complement of workers. This the Union refused, and instead, the Board of Directors decided to declare a strike against this firm. However, President David Dubinsky, after a conference with Mr. Reisman, finally succeeded in changing his mind and he agreed to reopen the factory and to reengage all the workers.

Case of Hattie Carnegie Before Impartial Chairman

Another serious problem causing the Union no little worry is that of the shop of Hattie Carnegie. This firm operates one of the largest ladies' tailoring establishments in the entire industry having employed up to the end of last season about 500 workers. These workers were divided in two factories, one a wholesale shop located at 55th Street and 5th Avenue, and another, a retail shop, at 49th Street.

A few weeks ago, the firm notified the

Union that it was giving up its wholesale factory in which about 300 workers are employed, including 18 cutters. This firm signed an agreement with the Union in October, 1931. Upon receiving this information from the firm, Local No. 33, in conjunction with Local 10, immediately submitted this case before Mr. George W. Alger, impartial chairman. The first hearing before Mr. Alger took place on Monday, June 13. Managers Harry Greenberg of Local 33 and Samuel Perlmutter of Local 10 charged the firm with making up its sample line with non-union help and considered it a lockout. They demanded that Mr. Carnegie immediately reengage all the workers in accordance with the provision of the agreement which states that there shall be no stoppages and lockouts. Mr. Herman Carnegie, for the firm, claimed that they have lost 50 per cent of their business and were therefore, compelled to give up their wholesale factory.

During the course of the hearing, Mr. Alger suggested to Mr. Carnegie to reopen the factory on a smaller basis and urged that the firm confer with the Union and reach some amicable adjustment and thus save as many jobs for the workers as possible. At this writing, conferences are still going on between the Union and the firm.

Conferences With Employers Interrupted

Activities and preparations for the general strike in the cloak industry were temporarily suspended on account of the death of President Schlesinger, have now been resumed.

All our cloak men are requested to report to the office from now on as often as possible for information regarding further activities. In addition to this all active members are requested to be around the office in the event of any important developments in connection with the general strike preparations.

ATTENTION! CUTTERS OF LOCAL TEN

The meetings for the following months will take place in the order as herein arranged.

1. Regular Membership Meeting, Monday, July 11, 1932
2. Regular Membership Meeting, Monday, July 25, 1932

All the above meetings are to be held in Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place, at 7:30 P. M.

Cutters are urged to attend without fail.

Books will be stamped signifying attendance and the \$1.00 fine for non-attendance will be strictly enforced.